

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's Final Office Action of March 19, 2007 issued with respect to the present RCE application, the Applicant respectfully submits the accompanying Amendment to the claims and the below Remarks.

Regarding Amendment

In the Amendment:

independent claims 1 and 6 are amended to specify that the authentication integrated circuit of the consumable not only stores the secret key for authentication but also state data on the consumable. Support for these amendments can be found at page 33, line 8-page 34, line 4, page 39, line 4-page 40, line 13 and page 41, line 12-page 42, line 11 of the present specification; and

claims 3 and 4 are unchanged.

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments do not add new matter to the present application, nor any new issues to the prosecution of the present application.

Regarding 35 USC 102(b) and 103(a) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of above-described amended independent claims 1 and 6, and dependent claims 3 and 4, is not disclosed or suggested by previously cited Koenig, for at least the following reasons.

As described above, independent claims 1 and 6 have been amended to recite that the authentication integrated circuit of the consumable not only stores the secret key for authentication but also state data on the consumable. In this way, it is ensured that the claimed authentication is able to detect real authentication integrated circuits of the consumables, and it is made difficult for a clone manufacturer to use the real authentication integrated circuits for clone consumables since clone integrated circuits are also needed (see page 33, line 8-page 34, line 4, page 39, line 4-page 40, line 13 and page 41, line 12-page 42, line 11 of the present specification).

On the other hand, Koenig merely discloses that the function g is stored in the user's coder 30 which is disclosed as being a portable device such as a card or a key (see col. 4, lines 22-47 and col. 5, lines 7-27 of Koenig). Thus, Koenig does not teach or suggest that the coder 30 is part of a consumable, let alone that it is store state data on such a consumable, as is required by amended independent claims 1 and 6, and dependent claims 3 and 4.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,

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